

JAN 19 1963

Approved For Release 2000/06/13 : CIA-RDP75

CPYRIGHT

FOIAb3b

CPYRIGHT

Ransom Deal: Not yet recorded in the Cuban-prisoner deal is the fact that the US government attempted to bludgeon several firms into putting into the ransom pot strategic goods previously banned from trade to Iron Curtain countries by the Department of Commerce.

A spokesman for Beckman Instruments, Incorporated, in Fullerton, California, told *Human Events* that Bobby Kennedy's boys had "requested" that the company chip in special gas chromatographs, flame photometers and the like—all of which are said to have military as well as medicinal value.

The president and founder of the company, Dr. Arnold O. Beckman, flatly refused, however, to submit to Administration pressure. Arnold stated the US was knuckling under to "Castro blackmail" and that his company would have nothing to do with it.

Despite attempts by Kennedy to make the ransom deal look "good," many Cubans who participated in the Bay of Pigs invasion vigorously opposed the deal. In a recent issue of *U. S. News & World Report*, Manuel Penabaz, a Cuban who claims the US "betrayed" the exiles in denying promised air support at the Bay of Pigs, says:

"From my comrades of the invasion I have had my belief confirmed that no payment of ransom was necessary. The cowardly dictator had his plane all warmed up and waiting during the recent missile crisis, ready to flee the country at the first military move by the United States."